

Second Sunday of Easter

April 27th, 2025

Liturgy: WS p. 22; Carol Card

Organist: Kathy Lueck



*These are written so that*  
*you may*

**BELIEVE**



**ST. JOHN'S**

Lutheran Church & School

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## ✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #466

*"Christ, Thou Art the Sure Foundation"*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

### Confession of Our Sins

*We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.*

**P** God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

**C** If we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**C** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**P** Let us pray.

**C** Almighty God, merciful Father, we are sinful by nature, and have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions. But we are sorry for our transgressions and pray You, of Your bountiful mercy, to be gracious and merciful unto us. Forgive us for Jesus' sake, renew us by Your Spirit, and lead us in the way everlasting. Amen.

### Absolution from Our God

*"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9)*

**P** Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. We are forgiven. With boldness and confidence we may approach the throne to find grace to help in time of need. In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### Response

TLH #199:4

**C** ♪ Sing we to our God above, Alleluia!

Praise eternal as His love: Alleluia!

Praise Him, all ye heavenly host, Alleluia!

Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia!

## The Introit

Ps. 81:1, 7, 10, 16; 1 Pet. 2:2

*A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.*

- P** Like newborn infants, Alleluia, long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alleluia.
- C Sing aloud to God our strength; shout for joy to the God of Jacob!**
- P** In distress you called, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder.
- C I am the Lord your God, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt.**
- P** Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it; and with honey from the rock I would satisfy you.
- C Like newborn infants, Alleluia, long for the pure spiritual milk [of the Word.] Alleluia.**

## Collect Prayer of the Day

*A prayer to God that collects together the thoughts and theme of the day.*

- P** Almighty God, grant that we who have celebrated the Lord's resurrection may by Your grace confess in our life and conversation that Jesus is Lord and God; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.**



### Ezekiel 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you

shall know that I am the LORD." <sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." <sup>10</sup> So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army. <sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are indeed cut off.' <sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. <sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. <sup>14</sup> And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD."

## CDS & Sunday School Children Sing

*"The Lamb"*



### 1 John 5:4-10

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith. <sup>5</sup> Who is it that overcomes the world except the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God? <sup>6</sup> This is he who came by water and blood-- Jesus Christ; not by the water only but by the water and the blood. And the Spirit is the one who testifies, because the Spirit is the truth. <sup>7</sup> For there are three that testify: <sup>8</sup> the Spirit and the water and the blood; and these three agree. <sup>9</sup> If we receive the testimony of men, the testimony of God is greater, for this is the testimony of God that he has borne concerning his Son. <sup>10</sup> Whoever believes in the Son of God has the testimony in

himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed in the testimony that God has borne concerning his Son.

## Confession of Faith

*The Apostles' Creed*

### I BELIEVE...

**in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn: TLH #381

*"I Know My Faith is Founded"*



### John 20:19-31

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where

the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." <sup>20</sup> When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. <sup>23</sup> If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." <sup>24</sup> Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. <sup>25</sup> So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." <sup>26</sup> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas

was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." <sup>27</sup> Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." <sup>28</sup> Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" <sup>29</sup> Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; <sup>31</sup> but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Seeing is Believing  
**Believing is Seeing**

**The Offertory**

WS p. 16

**C** ♪ *Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not Your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.*

✠ **The Offering of Thankful Hearts** ✠

**Hymn: TLH #208:1-8**

*"Ye Sons and Daughters of the King"*

✠ **The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer** ✠

✠ **Order of Holy Communion** ✠

**The Preface** *To the tune of "The Church's One Foundation"*

**P** ♪ *The Lord is with His people;  
Now may He be with you.*

**C** ♪ ***The Lord is with His servants;  
May He be with you, too.***

**P** ♪ *Now lift your hearts to praise Him.*

**C** ♪ ***To God we lift them high.  
'Tis right to praise and thank Him  
Who to His world draws nigh.***

**P** Thanks and praise be to You, our Father, almighty Creator, merciful Lord, God of promise and fulfillment, for sending your Son, the very Paschal Lamb, Who was sacrificed for us and bore the sins of the world. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with Mary Magdalene, Peter and John, and with all the witnesses of the resurrection, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

### **The Sanctus**

*To the tune of "Ye Sons and Daughters"*

**G** ♫ ***Holy are You, the heav'nly King!  
With angel hosts we join to sing,  
"Your majesty fills ev'rything!"  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Holy are You, our Lord most high!  
Blessed is He who now draws night  
In God's own name! With joy we cry:  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

***Holy are You, through endless days!  
Our glad hosannas now we raise  
To greet You with exalted praise.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!***

### **The Words of Institution**

*Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

**P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

**G** **Amen.**

**The Agnus Dei** *To the tune of "Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense"*

**☐ ♪ Lamb of God, You take away  
All the sinful world's transgression;  
Let Your mercy now, we pray,  
And Your peace be our possession.  
Grant us from our sins release;  
Lord, have mercy, grant us peace!**

**Communion Today is for Members Only Please**

The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

**✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠**

**Distribution Hymns**

TLH #313, WS #755, TLH #312

**Thanksgiving** *To the tune of "I Know that My Redeemer"*

**☐ ♪ Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!  
Our eyes have seen, our ears have heard,  
And we have tasted of His word.**

*As His own servants we depart  
With His salvation in our heart.  
His saving power He has made known;  
His love through all the earth is shown.*

*Lord, let us show the world Your light;  
Let us declare Your glory bright,  
Proclaim Your death until You come  
To take Your ransomed servants home.*

*Glory to God, the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
Oh, thank the Lord, whose goodness sure  
And steadfast love fore'er endure!*



## **The Benediction**

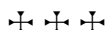
*To the tune of "The Church's One..."*

**P** ♪ *The good Lord bless and keep you,  
Lift up His smiling face,  
With favor look upon you  
And grant eternal peace.*

**G** ♪ ***To Father, Son, and Spirit,  
Most gracious One-in-Three,  
The Church sings alleluia!  
Now and eternally. Amen.***

**Hymn: TLH #189**

*"He is Arisen! Glorious Word!"*



**Joint Baby Shower** – Today after the service, the women of the congregation are invited to a joint diapers/wipes baby shower for Jess Rodebaugh and Emily Mueller. The shower will be held in the fellowship hall downstairs.

**Voters' Meeting Today** – The Voters of St. John's are invited and encouraged to attend our April Quarterly meeting today in the auditorium. So as not to interfere with the joint baby shower being held in the fellowship hall at the same time, we will not have our usual potluck meal. Instead, chili and cinnamon rolls will be available in the auditorium.

Besides regular Board reports, Agenda items will include: membership items: request from Todd Rosen to be a St. John's voting member; transfer of Jim, Kris and James Sullivan from Messiah, Eau Claire, to St. John's; request for release from Jennifer Dukleth; discussions about: getting Pastor a debit card, moving the communion railing, not ushering out after church; dates for VBS / Sunday School picnic; School Board to call VBS teachers; Delegates for Spring Delegate Conference (June 7 in Mankato); Summer worship schedule; Budget Committee Meeting date; July Quarterly Meeting date. Please give any additional Agenda items to Chairman Phil Strike as soon as possible.

**Ladies' Day Out** – Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 am at SOJOs in Lakefield. Please RSVP on the sign-up sheet in the entryway.

**Spring Musical Help** – In preparation for the Spring Musical, our teachers are requesting your help with the set, props, and costumes. If you are able and willing to help, please speak with Ruth or Lana. Any help at all is greatly appreciated!

**Mission Helper Trip Fund** – If you are able and willing to contribute funds to help offset the costs for Larry Boernsen to travel to Nepal this summer as part of the 2025 CLC Mission Helper Trip to Nepal, you are invited to do so by contributing to our **Mission Helper Trip Fund**, by marking donations as such on your offering envelope. (Using blanks on the left side.)

**CLC Call News** – Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has **received** the call to Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO. <> Principal Brandon Heinze has been granted a **peaceful release** from his call as Principal and Teacher of Immanuel Ev. Lutheran School, Mankato, MN. <> Teacher Amy Mielke of Messiah Lutheran School, Eau Claire, WI, has **returned** the call to Luther Memorial School, Fond du Lac WI. <> Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has **received** the call to Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA, has **received** the call to St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Mountain View, CA.

<b>Ushers</b>	4/27	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
	5/4	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	5/11	Kendall B, Larry B.
<b>Cleaning</b>	<b>Lueck, Liepold</b> (wk. 4)	
	Up Next – The Strikes	

## Things Will Look Better in the Morning

At the end of an especially rough, discouraging day, someone may tell you, "Don't worry. Things will look better in the morning." Often they do. A good night's rest can put troubles into proper perspective. They may not be the disaster you had envisioned at the time.

It would be a huge understatement to say that Good Friday was a "rough day." God's Son was nailed to a cross. Jesus suffered the shame and indignity of a public execution. For hours He endured the pain and mocking. Even the heavenly Father turned His back on Him, and the entire world went dark. Finally, Jesus died, and with His death, hope died in the hearts of His disciples. They couldn't imagine anything more devastating and permanent.

Yet things would look better on Sunday morning. Jesus had told them, "The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life" (Matt. 17:22-23). What appeared to be a terrible disaster was the means by which God would bring about the greatest blessing for humankind. Before He died, Jesus cried out, "It is finished!" and it was. Sin was paid for in full, and the world was reconciled to God. There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Things truly do look better in the light of Easter morning. No matter what troubles make a day discouraging, Jesus' resurrection is the assurance that God is not angry with us. We are His forgiven children in Christ. No matter how hard life may be, remember, Jesus lives to hear your prayers and will answer each one in love. When this life is wearisome and wears you down, look to the Easter dawn which is a preview of the resurrection and eternal life to come in the glory of heaven.

Even in the face of the most overwhelming enemies, the light of Easter shines through. Jesus lives! Therefore nothing can separate us from His love. Things really will look better in the morning!

## Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

April 28<sup>th</sup> – May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

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**Mon John 21:1-14** Jesus shows Himself alive once more to His disciples as they go about a very normal activity for them. He helps them fill their net, and Peter races to shore, but Jesus already has food for them.

**Tues 1 Corinthians 15:50-57** How can a mortal body become immortal? But it will happen, in the blink of an eye, and death will be swallowed up in victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

**Wed Exodus 15:11-21** Moses sings of God's redeeming mercy in Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and Miriam's refrain responds. So shall we also sing of our great deliverance in Christ from sin, death, and devil.

**Thurs Isaiah 4:2-6** Isaiah speaks of a new Jerusalem, cleansed of it's sin and made glorious by the Lord Himself. Shade from heat and shelter from storm picture for us the absence of fear and tear, all His doing.

**Fri Ezekiel 34:23-31** The redemption from Israel's captivity is like the great redemption which David's descendant accomplished for all. He is the Good Shepherd, the prince when God is king (v24).

**Sat Ezekiel 37:1-14** When God's Word speaks to bones, they come together, no matter how dry; when His Word calls upon breath to come into bodies, they live again. The Lord speaks, and it is done! (V14)



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